



U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

September 28, 2005

Via Regular Mail and Facsimile

The Honorable Roger Williams
Secretary of State
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, Texas 78711-2887

Dear Secretary Williams:

I can only imagine the host of burdens facing you and other Texas officials. I write to express my sympathy and also to ease your burdens in at least one respect. Specifically, I am aware that some local political subdivisions in the State of Texas have municipal general elections scheduled for November 8, 2005. No doubt the devastation and disruption caused by Hurricane Rita may necessitate the postponement and rescheduling of some elections. Please be assured that the Civil Rights Division stands ready to expedite the review of any and all submissions of voting changes (especially scheduling and polling place changes) resulting from Hurricane Rita which the State and/or its subdivisions submit to our Voting Section for review under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

The Civil Rights Division is committed to working with you and other State and local officials in the affected areas in order to help ease the added burdens caused by this disaster. Our Voting Section staff is available to assist in any way that they can. The Voting Section's toll-free telephone number is 800-253-3931. The Section 5 team leader and point of contact for eastern Texas submissions is Ms. Teresa G. Lynn, and she can be reached directly at 202-307-1324.

Our thoughts are with you and the people of Texas during this difficult period.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Schlozman
Acting Assistant Attorney General

cc: Honorable Rick Perry
Governor, State of Texas